

**ST. LANDRY PARISH COUNCIL
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4th, 2023
OLD CITY MARKET, 131 W. BELLEVUE ST.
OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA**

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

1. Chairman Dexter Brown called this meeting of the Public Works Committee of the St. Landry Parish Council to order.
2. Pledge of Allegiance & Invocation was taken care of in the Special Meeting.
3. **Roll Call:**
Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Dexter Brown, Jimmie Edwards, Coby Clavier and Ex-Officio Vivian Olivier. **ABSENT:** None.
4. **Person to address the Committee:**
 - *Robert Votier addressed the Council regarding monument removal, “A lot of things were said here and I believe some of it may have influenced the people who voted to remove the monument. I am quoting here from the minutes of the meeting and it is said that the monument was most accurately described as a monument of the white camellia or the knights of the Ku Klux Klan that is false. To have that monument on our courthouse square is an invitation that the government do not see us people that is false. The United Daughters of Confederacy were established as a propaganda auxiliary of the Ku Klux Klan that is false. It was put up as a symbol don’t come here and register when people was being terrorized by the Klan that is why it was put up, that is false. The speaker who started all this commotion referred to the UDC memorial as a Klan monument, it is not a Klan monument, and it is not true. Whether or not the monument was put up to intimidate black voters or black people in general, it was a monument trying to tear our country apart, that is not true. It is no basis in the fact of that. The statue does not stand for what is best of us; it stands for what is worst of us that is not true. If it makes any difference to all you need to know that. That’s why I pulled it up and I have it in writing in case anyone would like to look and read exactly what was said I might suggest before that thing actually gets moved or destroy or deface it any more maybe somebody should appoint someone to look in the history of what really happened and what’s true and what’s just being said to get something done that somebody want done but it’s unjustified. I think it would be a good thing to appoint a couple of people to check out the history of why the statue got put up, what was the motive behind it but don’t just go off a bunch of baloney of someone saying things that aren’t true. Thank you.*
 - *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated, “Good afternoon, I think everybody here on the Council is familiar with me. Tonight I wear somewhat of a different hat I come as representation of the Ag Arena Council. I currently chair that commission and have for quite some time, I been involved with the Ag Arena for a very long time. We as commissioners and other people that give up our time for this facility do it without compensation there is no monetary compensation and we fought for years and years to keep it open and going, it is improving we take great strides and we will continue to do so. I am here tonight to speak on behave of Ms. Megan Robnett Plattsmier who is up for reappointment for that position. She filled in an unexpired term Mr. Deshotel who was on the commission prior had some of residency issues and stepped off the board and she filled in his place. She brings a lot of knowledge to the table and commission. She also represents the LSU Ag extension department, which is very important to have between the parish Ag area, and extension to the huge development, which is one of the main premises of the initial building of the Ag arena in the late 70’s early 80,’s for the development of the youth and agriculture. I come with my recommendation that for reappoint of Ms. Megan Robnett do anybody have any questions I’ll be glad to answer.”*

- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated, “The only question I have is there a reason why the board only have three meetings a year and for the last couple of years there were no meetings at all.”*
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated, “Well as you know Covid was an issue, I’m not going to use that as an excuse but it was an issue that made things very challenging for the board. The reason we meet on an as needed basis is that we are more of an advisory council then we are of some body of a commission that has some type of leverage mechanism that will be able to force anything. Any rules or policies that we try to recommend to put in place, we try to put them in place but sometimes it is hard to get them enforced. It’s nobody fault but from the Parish President on down we give recommendation but if someone goes out and does something that goes against policy there’s no policy law or resolution that they can use to enforce that. So maybe what we need to do is start-having meetings that are more regular and put some of our policies in some type of resolution form. The Ag arena commission is kind of falling at the seat of their pants because we wasn’t given a whole lot of authority, maybe it’s time we look into putting some of that stuff into resolution or format so we can have some authority to actually enact and enforce all this. At the same time as we would any other commission setup some by laws and such to follow. I can tell you any volunteer board it is hard enough to be able to fill the quorum because no one has any incentive to come and people that do come are doing it out of true public service. Ms. Megan has been there and has been a trooper.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Is she here, maybe she would like to introduce herself.”*
- *Megan Plattsmier stated, “Hello Good evening everyone, my name is Megan Plattsmier I work with the LSU Ag center. Specifically in 4-H and have for 10 years now. Mr. Buddy asked me to come on, replace Mr. Vince Deshotell, and give my perspective from the LSU Ag Center side as well as from a youth aspect. We utilize the 4-H Ag arena for our livestock shows, horse shows, horse clinics, youth sportsmanship; we do utilize it for our events.*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “So they are five commission members I understand.”*
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated, “Yes sir.”*
- *Councilman Harold Taylor stated, “Three are from where and two are from where.”*
- *Frank (Buddy) Helton Jr. stated, “Geographically speaking myself I live on the north end of Opelousas between Opelousas and Washington. Ms. Plattsmier lives and the geographic of her appointment do not really factor in aside from the fact that she is a resident of the parish; she is on the council because we like to have someone from LSU Ag extension as representation directly involved. Kevin Simoneaux is on the eastern end of Opelousas. Lonnie Carriere resides on Montgomery Road off Lewisburg Hwy. Bill Fontenot, not the Bill Fontenot from here, lives in the Lawtell area. I just want to point out the way this council was setup it was not setup on geographic. It was setup upon people background and what they brought to the table as far as work acknowledge of this type of facility also business background and particularly LSU Ag extension use involvement part so they can bring to the table some advice as we go forward.”*
- *Mike Fontenot stated, “I’m here talking about the drainage problem that’s affecting me personally, which I didn’t have this problem prior to them digging the ditches. My ditches would not stay full of water like they staying as of now. A three-inch rain now puts water at least ten foot back into my yard. I never had that other than in 2016 when we had 16 inches of rain. Then I had water come up in my yard but prior to that never. Now my ditches stay full the water has nowhere to go. So they came and thought they were going to better things but they made things much worst. The water standing as it does now it running two feet under my driveway and at this rate since September or October when they started digging its terrible what it has become. It’s 30 years I been asking for a culvert to be put there because there is a canal that runs about 300 feet*

north and a canal normally is for things to drain to but they put one down and took it up and put it down for third time. Apparently, they do not know how to set a laser up or something it is one foot higher than any driveway on Landreneau Road. So how is water going to go through a culvert plus this culvert was done from the yard that is what the workers told me and it is a used culvert? If it is a good one that is nice but it was out of shape and if you going to be putting that and more weight on it then it will get flat and collapse. Whenever they came and started to dig with the machinery, he had problems with setting the laser after about 30 minutes saying he could not set the laser he just put it down and started digging. He said by the way which way does the water drain I said north. He got in his machine, I saw him on the telephone and a few minutes later he started digging and he dug south to a railroad track. A railroad track is like a levee to me the water going to get there then where is it going to go. There is a plate underneath Landreneau Road and with all the grass and all the shrubbery it has to go 300 feet through that to go through the trussell then come back west then head south.”

- *Councilman Jimmie Edwards stated*, “Mr. Bellard are you aware of this.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Yes, I’m his neighbor so yes I’m aware of it. The problem is the water does not go to the north it goes to the south end to the train tracks as it is supposed to go. Right now, our Attorney sent a letter to the railroad company and we have a meeting with Corey Wilson on next Monday because you cannot dig on the property owned by the railroad company. The problem is the water goes to 190 from that location. Where he lives at is where the hill is it drains to both sides. The reason why the water is coming back like it is the train tracks all along 190 we are having issues not just at that location. I am well aware of it and we already been in contact with Union Pacific and we had to contact their attorneys because they was not returning our calls, now we finally have a meeting scheduled with them on next Monday. Nothing I can do, I cannot go dig it. So Mr. Fontenot this Council can’t help you with that problem.”
- *Mike Fontenot stated*, “They the ones caused it why can’t they help me.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “The council didn’t cause this, the council has nothing to do with daily operation it’s me your neighbor.”
- *Mike Fontenot stated*, “Well then I will talk to you. I have a couple of questions for that then, when the contractor took out this contract job did he go out and look at the situation on what was going to transpire with all the grass and shrubbery. Did he go in there, look, and say well we will have this problem. We cannot start this unless we get permission from the railroad. Why isn’t that being done?”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “Mr. Fontenot I’m going to go to your house and talk to you. I am not going to discuss it in an open meeting.
- *Mike Fontenot stated*, “I don’t appreciate how you cut me off because I would like frontage to look like yours.”
- *Public Works Chairman Dexter Brown stated*, “Like Mr. Bellard said we will take care of your matter.”
- *Kim Smith addressed council regarding halfway house in neighborhood*. “Thank you for allowing me to be here to speak about this issue. This is a very critical issue about the health and safety of the residents where my dad and half of my family have lived for over 75 years. This neighborhood is located on 190 a little pass the yambilee building. My brother owns about half the houses in that neighborhood too. We have a very strong connection to that neighborhood. This is something I became aware of over the summer that there is a halfway house or transitional house that has been open and from what I understand, this houses men only whom have criminal records. I understand everyone deserves a second chance but the residents of this neighborhood have not been given a chance at all. The house is located on the corner of 190 and Third Street it is a blue house with white trim. My stepmother called and told me that this house had been open and then one day over the summer some of the kids that live there,

my nieces and nephews, which are under the age of 10 years old, and they roam the neighborhood that is what kids do. Some man that they see walking in the neighborhood that live in this house had offered to sale them drugs. So I called Sheriff Guidroz and had a long talk about it and was told we are aware of it and there is nothing we can do I am going to refer you to Jessie Bellard. Mr. Jessie and I have been talking for the past five or six months and it does not seem to be a quick resolution for this, it is very upsetting. Besides Jessie and the Sheriff I spoke to Richard Lewis and Mr. Red, I do know that Richard Lewis was given a package to give to the District Attorney about two weeks ago. The D.A. did call me today coincidentally to discuss this matter. I am so disgusted about the way this is going because it seems like it is very easy to open one of these houses but when you find out about it then it is almost impossible to close it down. Mr. Pete informed me that his office is a prosecuting entity they are not in the business of investigating, so if there is any crime that is going to fit to this house that is what he needs to know about. He said there is nothing in a package that Mr. Lewis gave me that indicate that any crimes have been committed. So let me tell you something, Mr. Bellard I told you, Mr. Lewis, and Mr. Red there is a little woods that outline the back of this neighborhood where the kids like to go play there. My son and my brother all played there as kids but let something happen to one of these kids they are brought back there raped, killed, or whatever someone will have serious problem because all know about this. Therefore, this is what I understand about a house the woman that opened it has no permit and does not intend to get a permit and she cannot meet the requirements of having a house like this. Then what the heck is this place doing being opened. The Ordinance that governs things like this has been changed to make it harder for someone to be able to do things like this in a neighborhood. From what I understand, the neighborhood has not been surveyed so meaning the residents in that neighborhood was not told before that house was opened up. That is a big issue especially with small children in this neighborhood. Therefore, there is some requirements somewhat kind of general requirements to open up a transitional housing in neighborhoods. There needs to be renovation standards on very old homes I have no idea what the inside looks like, does she have liability insurance, does she have qualified staff for monitoring residents who have criminal backgrounds, obviously they have drugs involved in this house. The D.A. said today they are two pedophiles that are on the register that live in that neighborhood. This is unbelievable and scary. Another thing you are required to have an operations manual, a policy manual, and county records for auditing reports. One of things Mr. Pete said is all he can do given the package Mr. Lewis gave him is to report it to DHH. I told him I would call DHH myself and Health standards because those are the two governing bodies on the state level where you can file a complaint. Something has to be done to shut this house down. Like I said, I believe in second chances but this is ridiculous.

- *Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Ms. Smith, quick question you said it’s a blue house located on Highway 190 and Third Street. That is in Opelousas. Correct.”
- *Kim Smith stated*, “That is correct.”
- *Councilman Dexter Brown stated*, “Is that when you pass Coburns.”
- *Kim Smith stated*, “It’s located right before that right pass the yambilee building. The house is a quarter of a mile pass the yambilee building it sits on Hwy 190.”
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “If there was a group home then apparently it was operating without a license from Louisiana Department of Health. On December 20th, 2022, last month the District Attorney office reported it to the Louisiana Department of Health and on December 27th, 2022. Last month the Louisiana Department of Health sent an investigation team to that location on Landry Street and when they went to the house apparently it is abandoned. The door was unlocked so they went inside; there was beer and trash all over the floor. The gas was turned off, the water was turned off, the blinds were destroyed, the house was a wreck and apparently, no one was living there, no one was there. It may have been a place where maybe homeless people would stay overnight and they would charge rent by someone but it was not a group home. It had no gas, it had no water, no one was there it was abandoned they could find no one there. The letter from the Louisiana Department of

Health is on its way to the D. A. office. They haven't received the letter yet so when you called today we called Louisiana Department of Health to get this information which is in the mail that hasn't got to us yet."

- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, "So Mr. Duplechain since no one is living in the house and there is no proof it was a halfway house, who owns the house. Can't we call the owner?"
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "The house is assessed to New Horizon which is a financial institution out of Tennessee. They got the conveyance by foreclosing on it. It may have had a hair salon there at one time looks like but not anymore. To be regulated as a group home it has to be a group home if it's an abandon house where people sleep at night it won't fall under the group home statute."
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, "Ok and I understand that I was just concerned on if it could be considered blighted property."
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "No, not at this time. The grass is cut and it is maintained but in poor condition, it is still livable. I do not know the last time people were there but it is still livable. I did not know that it was vacant. I went there myself and talked to people in the house."
- *Kim Smith stated*, "The Sheriff office has been there within the last 30 days because other residents have called in complaints of what's going on but you know the lady that's doing that."
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "It doesn't come back to her as Mr. Garrett stated it comes back to someone else so I'm not sure what happened maybe they lost it."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated*, "Mr. Garrett, my question I have on this is, we had strengthen the Ordinance and made it very difficult for them to operate in a subdivision where people are living, now in the situation what she is talking about this is in a subdivision where people are living and it is causing problems for the people that are living in that subdivision because of the people that are living in that home. Number one because they do not have a permit. How can they still operate and live in that area?"
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "What they found was that it's not operating as anything right now. If someone was there at night maybe, they could find people there in that house maybe even sleep there but to be under the group home ordinance it has to be a group home. Which means you have to have people living there, maybe receiving treatment or they under regulation or they hand over their salary to whomever runs the home. If it is not a group home then it is not going to follow the group home ordinance. It can fall under something if you have people going in at night sleeping there but it is not a group home and will not fall under group home ordinance."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated*, "Well if there is a home and you have people that's living there that has substance abuse or anything of that nature that is causing problems for people in that neighborhood but also it is a problem when they saying that the ordinance is not a strong ordinance. I think this council did everything that was in line to make it strengthen because I believe you wrote the ordinance for us."
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "Well I approved the ordinance."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr., stated*, "I believe Ms. Kim Smith said she spoke to the D.A. and you are an assistant D. A. and have a working relationship with him, then he come back and tell her that it's not a strong ordinance."
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "The Ordinance applies to group homes, it had to be a group home, you do have homeless people going in there sleeping at night"

does not make it a group home. It makes it a problem but doesn't make it a group home."

- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated*, "My question is if there is a person that owns that home that is vacant right now we can make sure that nobody is in possession of that house."
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "If they are people trespassing at night then they can be taken care of like that."
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, "Evidently it's not a group home but my concern is this, the owners that got it in Tennessee in a sale is it any way we can send the owners a letter asking to board up their property."
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, "I'm all in favor for doing whatever it takes but maybe it was never declared a group home but they had 4 or 5 individuals staying there with electricity and gas. So at one time up to maybe a month ago it kind of met the definition of a group home but they didn't want to listen and didn't want to comply so that is why the D.A. was involved to find out what our next move. Now I'm being told that no one lives there so we can notify them and ask to do something with the home."
- *Kim Smith stated*, "We been complaining about this for almost a year but Mr. Bellard you told me you knew the name of the lady that had opened this and her father was a preacher. Even though it was not technically a group home or halfway house that is how it was being used for these people with a criminal past. She just was not doing what she was supposed to do. Where is the accountability for someone like that? That is what I want to know. Is this going on all over the parish or city where people are just getting people together that has drug problems or they coming out of prison and just throwing them in a house. No one knows about it until the residents are walking around trying to sale drugs or doing whatever then the residents can see what is going on in their neighborhood. People need accountability for that kind of thing we can't tolerate that in this city we have enough crime."
- *Councilman Jerry Red Jr. stated*, "Yes, I agree."
- *Councilman Easton Shelvin stated*, "I was going to advise that if it's not a group home and no one supposed to be there then the sheriff department should be involved because that's criminal trespassing unless you know who the owner is and they say they don't want people on their property."
- *Councilwoman Mildred Theirry stated*, "I want to say that I know for a fact that at one point it was some type of home being ran there because I have a sister whom lives one street over and she was constantly calling me and telling me about things she was seeing happening over there. At certain point during the day, also a van would go there, pick up some of them, and take them somewhere else. Therefore, they were actually living there at some point and running some type of home. I'm not saying it was a group home but there was something being ran in that home."
- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, "Legal Counsel I have a question, we have no ordinance or no resolution that passed that we can bring criminal charges or can criminal charges be brought against this individual if they can prove that she was in charge of this residence. Operating without all these licenses and that type of activity because if there was a van going there and the sheriff was going there for some action then this could be happening across our parish."
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, "If it was or is a group home and it's operating without a permit from the parish by our parish ordinance it can be shut down. It can also be shut down by Louisiana State Statue by Louisiana Department of Health which is what they went out there to do and found the place basically shut down."

- *Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated*, “So nothing can happen to the individual who we presume had a group home there based on the statements that were made. Therefore, you got away with the crime. I’m just asking.”
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “According to our group ordinance it does provide against misdemeanor criminal charges against someone who violates it. That’s in our ordinance.”
- *Kim Smith stated*, “I’m glad that the house is vacant and the people are gone but my question is where did those residents go cause they got moved somewhere in whose neighborhood.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “When people rent out homes, I wouldn’t know what they doing with the home.”
- *Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated*, “So Mr. Bellard can you notify them and maybe they can just board it up.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “First Horizon is the owner on record but all they do is pay their taxes on it so I’m not quite sure who to contact. We would have to find out who takes care of day to day stuff.”
- *Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated*, “The conveyance shows it was authorized by a foreclosure in Memphis, Tennessee now who they have running it I don’t know.”
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “So Mr. Bellard you are going to try to board up that house so nobody be able to get into that house.”
- *Parish President Jessie Bellard stated*, “I’m going to call the person whom I believe is potentially the owner. Not sure, how it worked out but the bank pays the taxes on it and somebody else owns it. I’m not sure.”
- *Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated*, “But in the meantime you will try to do what you can lawfully so the people don’t have to worry about that house in the neighborhood and Mrs. Thierry won’t get any more phone calls either. Thank you.”

5. Public Works Report:

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “Like I said earlier Mr. Wilson is coming on Monday to talk about the train. The railroad company is coming to discuss our issues that we are having across all of Highway 190 with the water not draining in that area. It has been a year since we were allowed to do any work on railroad company property. We had to pay for a permit and all kind of stuff I do not think we should have to do but according to them if you want to do work on their property you have to go according to their rules. Mr. Duplechain has applied and we did everything on our end we could do to do that work, now the meeting is coming to a head so maybe we can get that taken care of and solve many of our drainage problems on that end. On Max Road Mr. Jimmie, I talked to Barry this week they will finish that curve. We got 5 to 6 inches of rain in some areas last week and flooded everybody so we had many crews out. We had a couple of reports of homes being flooded but nobody followed up with that but we did get boat from sheriff office and was able to move them from their houses or put them back in their houses.”

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Alvin Stelly to accept the Public Works Report.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

6. Forward all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2028).

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment to St. Landry Agricultural Arena Authority for a five- year term (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2028).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

7. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes for the remaining of a four - year term. (10-02-2021 - 10-02-2025)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** all applications received for one appointment to Eunice Gravity Drainage District No. 9 of Evangeline and St. Landry Parishes for the remaining of a four - year term. (10-02-2021 - 10-02-2025)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

8. Forward all applications received for one appointment to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for the remaining of a four-year term. (02-17-2020 - 02-17-2024).

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for one appointment to Prairie Basse Gravity Drainage District No. 15 for the remaining of a four-year term. (02-17-2020 - 02-17-2024).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

9. Forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 5 for a two-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2025)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for two appointments to Fire District No. 5 for a two-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2025)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

10. Forward all applications received for three appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2025).

A motion was made by Councilman Alvin Stelly, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for three appointments to Fire District No. 6 for a two-year term. (01-18-2023 – 01-18-2025).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

11. Forward all applications received for five appointments to Bayou Mallet & Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 for a four-year term. (02-01-2023 - 02-01-2027)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward

all applications received for five appointments to Bayou Mallet & Plaquemine Gravity Drainage District No. 10 for a four-year term. (02-01-2023 - 02-01-2027)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

12. Forward all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2027)

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward all applications received for two appointments to St. Landry Parish Waterworks District No. 2 (Rural) for a four-year term. (01-01-2023 – 01-01-2027)

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

13. Discuss going forward with the process to place Speed Bumps on Roland Oaks Road. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere)

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, “Yes, I made this request because I have some constituents that had some concerns about access to Roland Oaks and speeding on the road. I hope the council would consider the speed bumps to Roland Oaks Road.”

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to forward the process to place Speed Bumps on Roland Oaks Road.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

14. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (03-05-2023 – 03-05-2027).

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for two appointments to Ward Two Gravity Drainage District No. 1 for a four- year term. (03-05-2023 – 03-05-2027).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

15. Authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Coulee Crouche Fire Protection District No. 4 for the remaining of a two- year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024). Gregg Cormier has resigned.

A motion was made by Councilman Coby Clavier, seconded by Councilman Jimmie Edwards to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** to authorize Council Clerk to advertise for one appointment to Coulee Crouche Fire Protection District No. 4 for the remaining of a two- year term. (04-20-2022 – 04-20-2024).

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Alvin Stelly, Jimmie Edwards and Coby Clavier. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

16. Update on Broadband. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, “Mr. Bellard can you bring us up to date with the broadband project. The reason I keep bringing this up is because I have constituents who are constantly inquiring about this, are we still in the first phase or we in the phase where the gumbo funds are being used to fund the project.”

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, “The broadband issue is the first round money from NITA (federal grant that we received) they are still in there planning stages we have not

received any funds from APC to start the project. What you see that is being done none is Charter communication with a grant they received in 2019-2020 now they have to put those lines down. It is not going to be all over the parish but just what they bid on. That is what is happening now which will help us a lot but not what we are waiting on. The NITA grant is something that we will get done and of course, that is federal money. The gumbo plan is working but they just have not given us a year. The other one it has been a year already and we have not received any money or started any process. I think supply and demand will be an issue. This year they plan on laying down some lines but we do have another company that wants to come in and do some work under the gumbo plan and utilize the lines that's already in the ground now. That is something that might happen sooner than the other one because the fiber is already here. There's another round of gumbo fund that might come up next year."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I have a lot of concerned parents with school aged children and now it has become a necessity you are able to utilize a computer."

17. Discuss Cleaning of Culverts. (Councilwoman Mildred Thierry).

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Do we have a machine that goes inside the culvert and clean it. Not just the mouth of the culvert."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "We have a couple of things."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Is it working now?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It's in Covington Iberia parish but yes we do have one, we just bought one."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "I observed a lot of culverts with debris all in the inside of the culverts which could be interfering with the flow of water. In the past I had inquired and they told me it was broken so I was wondering if it's been repaired."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It's in the shop right now."

Councilwoman Mildred Thierry stated, "Ok, thank you."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard do you have any idea on when this culvert cleaner going to be repaired because I know that there are a lot of work orders because I turned in a bunch of them so what's the time frame on that."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "This morning I was told it might be a couple of weeks before they get the parts in to fix it."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Thank you."

18. Update on the Removal of the Statue. (Councilwoman Nancy Carriere).

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "It's been about another two weeks the statue has still been out there and I was just wondering if it's automatic or something. What is the delay again?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "It will be this week. They were going to start on yesterday but someone decided to be stupid and try to vandalize the monument. That kind of put a halt to everything but I can assure the council the person who did this there is a warrant for that person arrest. We will make sure that person is held accountable for their actions coming on our courthouse square and damage public property."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I wasn't aware of any situation."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "On Monday morning around 2:00 a.m. There's a warrant out for the guy."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "So we looking at what kind of time frame."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "They told me they would start next week and bringing it to Kentwood might not be an option right now. I do not think they will take it now but we will just take it down and we will have to store it. We may not have much choice."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "Probably would be best to protect it since its getting damaged."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I want to make a public announcement if anybody want to try and take it down like this guy tried to do you can't unless you come with a big tractor. I wish he had busted his truck myself. We have everything on video. Another thing I want people to realize is if you come on the courthouse square and you want to cause damage to public property just know one thing you will be on camera and we will publicize it. The news media is waiting for me to tell them he is arrested and I can assure you we will make an example out of this person because everybody in here knows him."

Councilwoman Nancy Carriere stated, "I wasn't aware of that situation but I'm glad to get an update that it will be this week or so and finally be done with that stage of this process."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard did they pull it down with a truck."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Oh no, they tried but it didn't work. They painted it."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Is it destroyed?"

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Well I don't know if they can get the paint off but again the council gave that statue to the Sons of Confederacy so that's their statue. We just going to take it down to get it off our property. So I don't know what they will do with it at this point."

19. Discuss any other business properly brought before this committee.

Councilman Coby Clavier stated, "I just want to follow-up if it was still in the plan to put some crushed asphalt on the shoulders of Beck Miller Road."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "Yes we did some work and they gave us some reclaim so that is definitely the plan. We have to get that piece of equipment that is going to attach to the front end and give another two foot on either side and gives you a shoulder. Garrett do you have any more information on that land in Mr. Alvin district that was sold."

Legal Counsel Garrett Duplechain stated, "Mr. Lee has an attorney and she has some proposal to settle this matter with us, so I can discuss that whenever I can."

Councilman Wayne Ardoin stated, "I am asking that a study for the drainage issue in the Judice Farms Subdivision cause all the ditches are flat land. People moved in over there with beautiful find homes and the ditches are starting to get as high as the road when it rains. We have a problem so I am asking that public works look at that."

A motion was made by Councilwoman Mildred Thierry, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to forward to Regular Meeting held on **Wednesday, January 18th, 2023** that our Public Works department look at the drainage issue in Judice Farms Subdivision.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.
NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion forwarded.

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Mr. Bellard on Jessie B Road on the North side of Jessie B Road there's a wash out. Some culverts or something needs to be put there on the three sides of that bridge that was installed by the state they have culverts and on that one side they did not. It is eating away at the property owners' property in massive amount because of erosion. They did not put any culverts when they put the bridge on that single section. Can you please look at that and see if anything the parish can do maybe put a couple of joint pipes

to prevent that from continuing to happen because it ate away a lot of property and it's getting deeper."

Parish President Jessie Bellard stated, "I'll get with Barry in the morning."

Councilman Timmy Lejeune stated, "Thank you."

20. Adjourn

A motion was made by Councilman Jimmie Edwards, seconded by Councilman Coby Clavier to adjourn the Public Works Committee Meeting.

On roll call vote: YEAS: Mildred Thierry, Gil Savoy, Jimmie Edwards, and Coby Clavier.

NAYS: None. ABSENT: Alvin Stelly. ABSTAINED: None.

Motion carried.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THE FOREGOING TO BE EXACT AND TRUE
SHERELL JORDAN, COUNCIL CLERK
KAREN BARLOW, ASSISTANT COUNCIL CLERK**